

The Organized Farmer

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA

9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. Phones: 25481 - 25965

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IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Almost unanimous support has been given the F.U.A. Emergency Program as presented at the current series of mass meetings. Crowds up to 325 persons including businessmen and others have been present at some of these gatherings. Often farmers have travelled in excess of 40 miles to attend. Local officials are urged not to let enthusiasm wane following meetings in their areas.

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GENERAL SERVICES

President's Report

The winter of 1955-56 will probably go down in history as one of the worst on record in most parts of the province. Continuous cold weather, deep snow and drifted roads have made the life of our rural people most difficult. Shortages of hay for livestock, and even of water, are beginning to appear and will surely be much worse before spring. School van routes have been repeatedly snowed in and much time has been lost from school. Perhaps even worse is the constant fear of sickness or accident when roads are blocked. The farm women of the prairies are bearing a heavy cross this winter. Fortunately, at least some of the long range weather forecasters say the worst is over and we can expect better weather next month.

The weather has also played havoc with our action program. Schedules of meetings have been drawn up and had to be cancelled because of blocked roads. In many cases poor roads and cold weather have resulted in small attendances when meetings were held. In spite of these difficulties, we are going ahead and intend to hold as many meetings as we possibly can, and as quickly as possible.

At practically all points where meetings have been held, attendance has been good and enthusiasm high when roads and weather permitted. Generally speaking, we have had good support from local business and professional men, but they have not attended in as large numbers as we had hoped. Perhaps this could be improved by extending personal invitations to as many of these people as possible.

Reports reaching me indicate that the petition is being well received and little difficulty is being experienced in getting both rural and urban people to sign it. Here again, many of our rural people cannot be readily reached and I am afraid that unless special efforts are made many who are in sympathy will be unable to endorse with their signature. Your attention is drawn to a note in this issue pointing out a serious error I made in preparing the petition.

Meetings of the Inter-Provincial Farm Union Council and of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture were attended. Report of A.F.A. meeting is carried in this issue. At both these meetings we obtained support for most of our emergency program. The points of agreement arrived at during the Inter-Provincial meet are being incorporated in a brief which that body is presenting to the Federal Cabinet next month. Resolutions approved by the A.F.A. went forward to the Western Conference where Mr. Sanford, Director of District 6, was present, and to the Canadian Federation meeting at Hamilton, which Mrs. Armstrong attended.

I was invited to speak to the Lethbridge Rotary

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Club and pointed out to them the problems facing agriculture and the effect these would have on the whole Canadian economy unless action was taken now. Chats with officials of some half-dozen Chambers of Commerce have been held and, in general, they have been sympathetic with farm problems but somewhat reluctant to initiate any action on their own.

Provincial resolutions passed at your convention were presented to the provincial cabinet on January 3. A report on this meeting is presented in another part of this issue. It is likely we will obtain action on a number of these requests. Many of these requests were also approved by the A.F.A. and our case will be strengthened when they present the same requests to the cabinet.

Finally, I would call your attention to the membership situation. At present our membership is 50 per cent of last year's total. It is difficult to convince governmental authorities that farmers are 100 per cent behind our emergency program when only one-quarter of them are members of our organization. Furthermore, our effectiveness as an organization is being lessened because we have less money with which to carry on our work. No matter how economically we try to operate, we can only go as far as our finances allow. I realize that bad weather and lack of cash have had a pronounced effect on our canvass, but the hard cold fact remains that time is running short. It will take the best efforts of everyone from now on to bring our membership up to last year's level. May I personally appeal to all of you to do your very best. Because of its extreme importance I feel it can be done!

Presentation to the Provincial Cabinet

Members of the F.U.A. delegation — Mr. A. W. Platt, Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, Mr. Henry Young, Mr. E. Nelson, Mrs. Mildred G. Redman and Mrs. Molen.

Members of the Cabinet present were Premier Manning, Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Minister of Agriculture; Hon. Gordon Taylor, Minister of Highways; Hon. A. O. Aalborg, Minister of Education; Hon. E. W. Hinman, Provincial Treasurer; Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Hon. R. Reireson, Minister of Industry and Labor; Hon. Dr. W. W. Cross, Minister of Health; Hon. Fred Colborne, Minister without Portfolio; Hon. R. D. Jorgenson, Minister of Public Welfare; Hon. A. R. Patrick, Minister of Economic Affairs; Hon. J. Hartley, Minister of Public Works.

The brief was presented in three parts. The first part dealt with matters that we consider of immediate importance; the second part listed other resolutions passed at our recent convention; and the third part dealt with the policy as contained in the F.U.A. Program.

PART ONE

Loans to Farmers — F.U.A. requests assistance to qualified farmers with loans not to exceed \$15,000 to purchase land at an interest rate not to exceed 3½%, the loan to be secured by a 30 year mortgage, and the project to be financed by a revolving fund administered by a three man board. Also suggests that the Federal and Provincial Governments join forces in this respect and make the over-all program more effective than it is at present.

GOV'T'S REPLY — They are looking into the matter. They suggested a 20 year mortgage and that farmer have some capital of his own before he could secure such a loan, if one is put in effect.

Hunting — Resolved that no person shall hunt or take big game or game birds on land owned or leased or land under cultivation, or enter upon the land without consent of the owner or occupant of said land, with the following provisions:

That farmers not wishing to take advantage of this regulation shall:

1. Erect "No Hunting" signs whereby no one may hunt or shoot any time while posted, except occupants.
2. Place or give his consent to the placing of "Hunting Approved" signs whereby hunters would not be required to obtain permission to hunt and farmers would not be bothered giving permission.

REPLY — The Government hopes to come

up with something definite on hunting this year.

Rural Telephones — F.U.A. requests that a revolving fund be established to assist in construction similar to that provided for the R.E.A.'s and that research on construction be carried out to find more economical methods of rural telephone construction.

REPLY: There are 27,330 rural telephones in Alberta now. More lines are being constructed.

Board of Arbitration and Land for Public Works — F.U.A. requests that Board of Arbitration afford protection to property owners in making settlement for land and for damages caused by the construction of Public Works. This land should be valued at a rate of double the market value. Also urges the Provincial Government and rural municipalities to provide proper ditching of roads.

REPLY: They did not feel that you could ever get a arbitrary form to fit every case. Land should be paid at 2 or 3 times assessed value not market value as it fluctuates too much. The government does try to compensate for water damage.

Marketing Boards — F.U.A. requests that Act 79 include cattle and sheep producers and that it require ⅔ majority of those voting.

REPLY: The government felt that if producers do not come out to vote, then they are not sufficiently interested in a marketing plan. They will not open the act the first year after it is passed.

PART TWO

Historical Museum — F.U.A. requests that Government erect two large warehouse museums, one in north and one in south and these be staffed with men capable of completely reconditioning and maintaining in running condition these relics of a past generation.

REPLY: This has been discussed but they question the advisability of copying Saskatchewan.

Alberta Treasury Branches — F.U.A. requests that the Government back the Treasury Branches to enable them to make loans similar to the Farm Improvement Loans to farmers.

REPLY: Large percentage of the Treasury Branch loans are to farmers now. These are short term loans up to three years.

Weather Modification — F.U.A. requests that local improvement districts, municipal districts, special areas and counties be allowed to carry on weather modification undertakings as they see fit.

REPLY: There would be the danger of

damage suits. It presents a problem but the Government is looking into the matter and getting information.

Power Pole Placement — F.U.A. requests that companies in the building of a line of poles or structures, in addition to paying the farmer for the privilege of building their line on the farmer's property, pay said farmer an annual compensation for nuisance, inconvenience, hazard, loss of production, loss of time for both labor and machinery, etc. and that all poles or structures be erected on north-south or east-west straight lines and not diagonally across the farmer's land.

REPLY: Are checking into the matter now. Many ways things can be improved and they hope to get program that will be more satisfactory.

Accident Compensation — F.U.A. requested that a system of farm accident compensation be instituted with funds provided by taxation.

REPLY: There is a plan now, but it is not too well known.

License Fees According to Tonnage Rating — F.U.A. requests that farm trucks be licensed according to their tonnage rating.

REPLY: Department is working along this line now and expect to have something definite before next license year.

Bonus to Truckers — F.U.A. requests the Department of Agriculture to look into the matter of packing companies paying livestock truckers a side bonus to encourage them to deliver stock to them.

REPLY: Will look into the matter, but it would be very hard to do anything about it.

Taxation — F.U.A. requests that the Municipal Act be so amended that the Municipal Council be informed to adjust the assessment and tax on such land which has been under water and out of production for at least two years.

REPLY: We should have the support of the Municipal Association on this before anything could be done.

Seismograph Drilling — F.U.A. requests that seismograph and oil companies be required by law to drill no closer than one third of mile to farm well, and that they be required to cement to the bottom all future holes drilled. Also that they be responsible for the damage done because of their work and they be required to provide the farm with a water supply equal to the original supply.

REPLY: There is no difficulty in getting this done if damage can be proved. Have had very little trouble.

Poultry Thieves — F.U.A. requests that the Provincial Government increase the penalty against poultry thieves.

REPLY: Will check into this. If crime is

under Criminal Code, then nothing Provincial Government can do.

Crop Insurance — F.U.A. requests that the Alberta Government ascertain at what cost crop insurance on an individual basis could be provided.

REPLY: Thought it would come quite high. Will try to get comparison with Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Meat Prices — F.U.A. requests the Provincial Government to investigate the price spread on meat products between producer and consumer.

REPLY: No comment.

Hutterites — F.U.A. requests an investigation into the increasing and expanding Hutterites' communities.

REPLY: This is under review now.

Treatment of Erysipelas — F.U.A. requests that the district agriculturist or veterinary where requested hold field days to demonstrate the proper method of control or erysipelas.

REPLY: Recognize the need. Will ask district agriculturists or veterinary to look more closely into it.

Coyote Control — F.U.A. request that the ministerial order governing use of (1080) be modified to read "one half mile from dwelling" for any bait.

REPLY: Could not do this because of safety rules. Have to abide by laws laid down by manufacturers.

Machinery — F.U.A. requests that machine companies be required to stock every part of harvesting equipment in distributing points located within a radius of 150 miles, and in event the said company cannot supply the part, it be responsible to the extent of the farmer's loss.

REPLY: Will look into the matter.

Road Work Being Done Under Contract Instead of by the Hour — F.U.A. suggests that road work be contracted by the mile.

REPLY: They have had to let out foremen for not getting work done. Are doing more and more by contract now.

Roads — F.U.A. request that the Provincial Government give more consideration to the building and improving of roads into outlying settled areas.

REPLY: Department of Highways giving it a lot of attention. Endeavoring to get roads to areas.

Road Bans — F.U.A. requests that a certain time be set aside on radio stations for road ban announcements.

REPLY: Working on it now. Trying to get exact time on radio when people can hear road bans.

Natural Gas — F.U.A. requests that the Government compel oil companies to grant na-

tural gas to farmers on whose land battery sites are located. This grant to be made at the farmer's risk.

REPLY: The problem is the danger involved.

Stumpage Charge — F.U.A. request that government issue permits to farmers cutting fire-killed logs, firewood, fence posts and rails for their own use.

REPLY: Thought there was provision. Will check.

Hauling Farm Produce — F.U.A. request that Act be amended to make it legal for farmers to haul pulpwood or fire wood for their own farms in trucks having a farm license.

REPLY: Will look into the matter.

Licenses for Boat Keepers — F.U.A. request that people offering boats for hire be required to obtain a license and be subject to inspection.

REPLY: Alberta Safety Council is looking into the matter.

Purple Gas in Farm Trucks — F.U.A. requests that farm trucks and tractors be allowed to burn purple gas for hauling farm produce.

REPLY: If farmers were allowed to haul their produce, other merchants would want to haul their produce too.

PART THREE

Education — Requests financing by the Province of at least 50% of the cost of elementary and secondary education, including cost of school buildings, and teacherages.

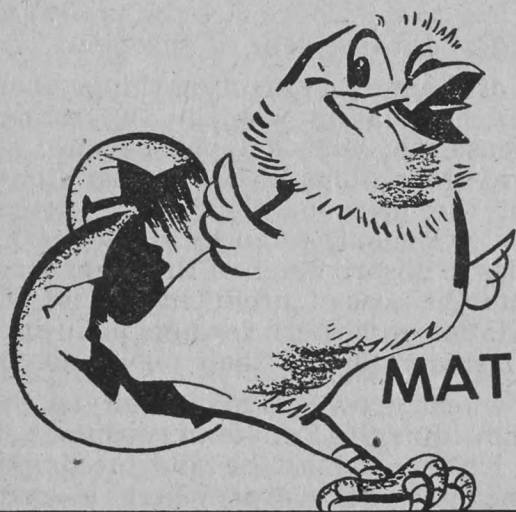
REPLY: Did not feel they should grant for the building of teacherages. If they did this for schools, they felt that they should do it for other businesses.

Mothers' Allowance — F.U.A. request that Mothers' Allowance be paid in full in all cases where the husband is (a) sent to jail; (b) confined to a mental institutions; (c) deserts his wife and children; (d) incapacitated by disease or accident.

REPLY: Will consider this. Do give help now.

Health — Requesting (a) Action by the Provincial Government to encourage the setting up of fully staffed health units; (b) co-operation by the Province in any adequate plan of health insurance.

REPLY: All health units fully staffed except Macleod and this is being re-organized now. Only room for three more units in province. Wetaskiwin now getting ready. St. Paul



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and South of Lethbridge do not have one. Province is anxious to co-operate with Federal Government.

Compensation to Surface Owners — F.U.A. requesting adequate compensation of at least \$1500 per well-site to cover first year damages and for subsequent years a rental of not less than \$500 per year or an alternative policy of 1% gross royalty at the option of the land owner.

REPLY: A lot of land would not be worth this compensation. This would be maximum, not minimum. Government does everything to see that farmer gets adequate compensation.

Electric Power — F.U.A. requesting development of electric power under the Alberta Power Commission with rural lines built into the farmers' yards without any direct cost to the individual. Farmers who have already paid for power lines to be reimbursed by the Power Commission.

REPLY: Government will continue to work on how cost can be brought down.

Car Insurance — F.U.A. requesting a basic minimum of \$20,000 public liability, and \$2000 property damage together with personal accident insurance to be issued at cost with each car and truck license. Fire, theft, and any additional coverage desired, to be provided at cost on an optional basis by the Provincial Insurance Branch.

REPLY: Government is investigating this matter.

Reduction in Gas and Oil Prices — F.U.A. requests that the Provincial Government take action to bring about a reduction in price of gasoline, oil and tractor fuels.

REPLY: Gas is cheaper in Alberta than in U.S.A. other than in four states. Will look into the matter.

Export of Natural Gas — F.U.A. expressed opposition to the export of natural gas.

REPLY — Would lose 21 million dollars if cannot export to U.S.A. Do not see any danger of a shortage.

Property Laws — Revision of the Intestates Succession Act and introduction of Community Property Laws.

REPLY: Will discuss this with F.W.U.A. when they meet the Cabinet.

JUNIOR F.U.A. NEWS

On January 11th the Oyen Junior FUA held their first meeting of 1956 at the home of James Hardie. During the business session it was decided that handicrafts such as shell work, metal work, would be the winter project. The next meeting will February 2nd at the home of Mr. Hardie and a skating party will follow.

A PENNY A LOAF

The price of bread in most parts of Saskatchewan increased a cent a loaf recently. The bakery companies said the increase was forced by higher costs of labor and ingredients, other than wheat flour, which go into making bread. They cited changes in a number of their cost items to make their point.

However justified, on a cost basis, the increase may be from the viewpoint of the baking companies, it will still rub the Saskatchewan farmer the wrong way. It points up in devastating manner the fact that other groups are able to take a bigger share of the consumer's dollar while the farmer's share declines. Labor, transportation, sundry suppliers to the bakery trade and others have all been able to boost the price of their goods and services. The farmer has not. His income has declined at an alarming rate—40 percent from 1952 to 1954 as measured by the farm cash income of this province.

The bakery companies reported that milk powder and lard had increased by 40 to 50 percent respectively during the last year. It would be interesting to know what part of these increases have gone back to the farmer. In the case of hogs, it is hard to understand why lard prices should be rising when hogs have been selling close to the floor price for several weeks, just as they did last year at this time.

One of the most interesting things about the bread price situation was the suggestion that the increase had been delayed because of previous price reductions in the cost of flour. Apparently, the price of flour came down just enough a few months ago to allow the baking companies to absorb much of the other increases going into the cost of producing bread. This is clear instance of western farmers bonusing Canadian consumers out of their own pockets.

The wheat grower thinks it unjust that he should subsidize the Canadian consumer simply because his wheat must be sold in competition with wheat growers everywhere else in the world. Yet that is what is happening. The price of wheat is set by the competition it must face from other wheat growers who are, in turn, subsidized by their governments. The Canadian consumer benefits and the farmer suffers.

The farm population bears its share of the cost of protecting Canadian industry and Canadian wage standards. The farmer feels that the time has come for the Canadian consumer to reciprocate. He suggests that the price of wheat in the Canadian market be raised to \$2.05 a bushel at present and that in future

(Continued on Page 7)

MORE LIVESTOCK WON'T HELP

If prairie farmers paid more attention to livestock and less to wheat, they would be better off. That advice is frequently heard in these days of onerous wheat surplus.

To some extent it is good advice. That is one way of reducing the stocks of oats, barley and lower-grade wheat and making room for the milling grades of wheat. Acreage diverted from wheat to pasture, fodder and feed grain would yield a quicker return, for it's almost impossible to turn grain into cash these days while there are no marketing restrictions of any kind on hogs and cattle. Certainly farmers with livestock aren't suffering as much now as those who produce only grain. Livestock have always stabilized farm income.

But more livestock will not save prairie agriculture.

The fact is that hogs and cattle are approaching the stage of over-production that wheat has reached. Livestock prices are the lowest since the start of the war and they will probably go lower. They have fallen far more than grain prices. And hogs and cattle are far more vulnerable than grain, for they cannot be stored. When they are ready for market they have to be sold for whatever they will bring.

Canadian livestock prices are tied—not too tightly—to American prices. And in the last year or so the price of American hogs and cattle has collapsed. . . . The wholesale index for all meats and poultry is down about 40 percent in the U.S. from what it was in 1951, while the

A PENNY A LOAF

(Continued from Page 6)

it move up or down in sympathy with the general economy of the country.

It would cost the Canadian consumer very little to pay the Canadian farmer \$2.05 for the amount of wheat used in the Canadian bread market. The cost of flour (after paying milling charges) in a loaf of bread is about three cents. There are about 50 to 60 loaves of bread in a bushel of wheat. A price increase of a cent a loaf would make it possible to pay the farmer 50 to 60 cents a bushel more for his wheat. This would be more than ample to bring the price of wheat in the domestic market up to \$2.05 a bushel as the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool delegates proposed at their last annual meeting.

A penny a loaf is surely not too much to ask from the booming, protected Canadian economy.

—The Western Producer

index for non-farm non-food commodities is up about 3 percent.

No one contends that the post-war highs were fair prices. But the fact remains that livestock prices have collapsed while almost every industry except agriculture is enjoying greater prosperity than ever before. . . . Figures show clearly that price has a good deal to do with consumption. When hog prices were higher the Canadian market took only 80,000 hogs a week. Now the domestic disappearance is about 110,000. Beef slaughtering was only 22,000 a week when the price was near its peak; now it is up to 40,000.

How much higher can consumption go without completely wrecking prices? Canada has about 10 percent more cattle on feed than a year ago, Alberta perhaps 20 percent more. Eastern feeders complain that the West is going to swamp them with cattle. The breeder may be able to take another price jolt or two, but the feeder is in a very vulnerable position.

American farmers have been turning faster than Canadians to livestock. This year, for instance, they are producing 100,000,000 hogs, nearly a quarter more than two years ago. Some 27,000,000 cattle are being slaughtered there this year, 60 percent more than four years ago.

So Canadian farmers have been warned. There's no protection for them in the American market if they produce a surplus of hogs and cattle. The reverse is true. Since the surplus usually sets the price for the whole market, the Canadian livestock industry is in a precarious position. What has happened in wheat could happen in livestock, without restraining effect of quotas. Farmers can't turn en masse to livestock. Agriculture is not merely maladjusted. It's in a depression.

—Calgary Albertan

F.U.A. NEWS

A successful meeting of the Hills Local No. 1132 was held at the home of Mr. James Hardie on January 11th. Much interest was shown in the report of the annual convention given by Mrs. Della Doupe and Mr. James Hardie.

Officers elected were: President—Clifford Doupe; Vice-president—Mr. Clarence Kuich; secretary—Mrs. Della Doupe.

The FUA Petition on the Emergency Policy was circulated and it was stressed that it was in the interest of every farmer to sign it.

The next meeting will be held on February 2nd at the home of Mr. Hardie. The Juniors served the lunch.

Farmers Union of Alberta

9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta

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3. Clare Anderson, Freedom
4. Fritz Wuth, Rat Lake
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6. S. A. Sanford, Vegreville
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VETERANS' SECTION: Chairman: R. E. G. Armstrong, Parkland; Secretary: E. Gill, Irvine.

EDITORIALS

Throughout the history of Western Canada farmers have been plagued by inadequate credit facilities. Systems of credit designed for business have been, for the most part, the only ones available to farmers and for the most part are unsatisfactory. Partial solutions such as Farm Improvement Loans and the Farm Loan Board, while of some help, have been no real solution.

In this day and age all business is run on credit and farming is no exception. What is needed is an efficient method of providing it at the lowest possible cost.

When considering the matter it seems there are three types of financing required by the farming industry.

The first is short term credit for financing yearly costs of production. We are paying more than we think when we ask the local merchant, oil dealer or repair shop to finance our operations. Conceivably the chartered banks could provide this, and they do to a large extent; but if they are to continue they

will have to have people in their organizations who understand agriculture and act accordingly.

The second is long-term credit for purchase of land and equipment to be repaid over a long period of years when necessary. At present there is no machinery available that is doing a satisfactory job.

The third type required is for the financing of marketing schemes. This would require large sums for both short term transactions of day-to-day selling and long term transactions where surpluses are involved.

We should be giving consideration to the setting up of an Agricultural Credit Bureau on a national scale, financed by the Bank of Canada, to take care of these matters.

New Local at Hays

A group of 40 enthusiastic district farmers gathered at Hays on January 5 to form a new local. Ralph Roll was elected president and A. Tilleman was chosen secretary-treasurer of the new group.

George D. Minion and R. Steen, director and sub-district director, respectively, were in charge of the organization.

Open Forum

Letters for publication in the Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the name of the sender must accompany the letter. The Editor reserves the right to condense any letter to conform to space limitations. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

The Editor,
Organized Farmer.

Another F.U.A. convention has gone. Over 800 delegates were present at this convention and no doubt many of them went back to their locals and reported how well they have presented the wishes of those who trusted him or her at this convention. As most of us are more or less used to disappointment concerning the doings, or not doings, at conventions, so will there be a certain amount of disappointment in regard to the failure of certain resolutions not to receive the green light.

I, for one, as a delegate of a good sized local found it difficult to understand what was in the minds of other delegates who voted and defeated resolution No. 12 of Supplement No. 2, which read — A payment of \$10.00 per acre annually to be made for up to $\frac{1}{3}$ of each farmer's cultivated land taken out of grain production and seeded to forage crops. This was amended and adopted to cut the \$10 to \$5 per acre, and again amended to read "out of wheat production".

After a short debate this resolution was tabled, in order to give Mr. Cook, an official of the Farmers' Union of Montana, time for a speech, and I, for one, must say that Mr. Cook's address was well received as it was very informative and instructive.

I feel that there is plenty of room to copy some of the policies in force in the farm organizations across the border, namely—they get the backing of Labour Unions or, if you prefer, "Trade Unions". When Trade Unions want a raise in pay they often ask twice as much as they expect so if they are offered half the increase they are often satisfied (until next time). If we applied such an idea to Resolution No. 12 and our Federal Government being as Liberal as they turn out to be we perhaps would be lucky to get 10c on the \$1.00, and fortunate if we got 20 cents on the \$1.00 which would amount to \$1 or \$2 per acre.

However, when I moved next morning, this I think was December 7, that Resolution No. 12 be brought up for consideration and was duly seconded, it simply was knocked cold, when a vote was taken.

It may be O.K. to complain about the sur-

plus wheat; 1956 may produce a surplus of barley or oats, but if the members do not try (as could have been done if they had given Res. No. 12 a fair break) and help to remedy the situation they should not complain. Most of us do remember that some years ago the Federal Government paid us \$2.00 per acre to either summerfallow or seed down to forage crop. It would also be more in line of time at command if those delegates who move a resolution be more concise and to the point, when given the opportunity to speak on behalf of their motion. Also, once the resolution committee has done its job of screening same, that there be no more attention paid to those resolutions which either come by mail, phone or telegram while the annual meeting is in session.

I am not wrong in saying that in the future when a delegate moves that a resolution be tabled he or she should stipulate as to when such a resolution should be on the agenda again for further consideration.

Let us think more and better and get all members to read the "Organized Farmer".

Ted Reynders,
Local No. 547, Sangudo.

The Editor,
Organized Farmer.

It was with mixed feelings that the writer heard that the Annual Convention of the F.U.A. had given its strong support to Export-Import marketing boards. In this individual's opinion they are the solution to the farmers' export marketing problem. But many people are coming to the conclusion that finding a solution is not the difficulty, that the difficulty is in getting the Dominion Government to permit a solution.

What is the good of wasting the time of the F.U.A. over Import-Export Boards if the Dominion Government is going to say "No, you can't have them".

We must look the facts in the face. The industrial east is all powerful in Canada and trade is regulated for her benefit alone. The one exception was in 1921 when the Farmers held the balance of power in the Ottawa Government and compelled the Liberals to reduce the tariff by half. Immediately the export of wheat went up by 100 million a year.

The following figures should be studied. From 1922 to 1928 inclusive the export of wheat averaged 310,000,000 a year, and the production averaged 410,000,000 a year for the same period. For the last 10 years the average yearly export of wheat has been 270,000,000 bushels, while the average yearly production has been 470,000,000. That is, 40,000,000 bushels a year less exported than in the period when the

"THE BUTTER SITUATION"

By Roy C. Marler,
President, Alberta Federation of Agriculture.

Much has been said recently about the sale of our surplus butter in Europe, and whether or not we actually have a surplus of butter.

A good look at what has caused our present position will help anyone interested in this matter. It is generally believed by Canadian citizens that our surplus butter has accumulated as a result of increased production, stimulated by the price support of 58 cents a pound butter fat. This is not true. Our butter production has declined from 370,000,000 pounds in 1948 to 334,000,000 pounds in 1954, a reduction of 36,000,000 pounds (figures for 1955 not yet available — they may show a slight increase). This reduction proves that 58 cents has not been a price incentive, nor has it been a factor in causing the butter surplus.

What has caused the butter surplus is the increased production of margarine from imported margarine oils, from a standing start in 1949 to 1,364,000 pounds in 1954 (1955 figures not yet available). During this time the per capita consumption of margarine has reached eight pounds per person, almost exactly the amount that per capita butter consumption has declined — from 28 pounds to 20 pounds.

Another factor in this butter question is that Canada imported, in 1954, 22,000,000 pounds of butter.

With respect to the criticism of the Government sale of this butter outside of Canada, dairy producers across Canada requested the Federal Government, through the Dairy Farmers of Canada and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture on March 3, 1955, to dispose of 22,000,000 pounds of butter outside of Canada, as this butter was not needed when it was brought in. Therefore, the dairy farmers of Canada must take at least equal, if not greater, responsibility in butter exports from Canada during the year. Our justification for this request to the Government was that what custom tariff rates now exist on dairy products fail entirely, due largely to climatic conditions, to provide the protection necessary to maintain a dairy industry for Canada. The effect of rates of tariff on dairy products from New Zealand, the lowest-cost dairy producing country in the world, amounts for example to only about four percent in the case of cheese, which can be compared with 20 percent and higher for most established manufacturing industries.

Dairy farmers are strongly of the opinion that, since there is in Canada a protective tariff policy, the dairy industry is in all justice entitled to the application of that policy, when and where necessary, on a comparable basis with that granted to other industries. The dairy producers of Canada are just as much free traders as other citizens but it is only being realistic to say that, notwithstanding frequent changes of governments in Canada

and among other nations, no country in the world today enjoys free trade in full. This is true, irrespective of changes in governments resulting from different political views down through the years.

In the current criticism being offered we find that some officials of the dairy trade would favor scrapping price support and letting butter find its own level and, in turn, would have the Federal Treasury make deficiency payments to sufficiently compensate the producer to retain the dairy industry. I have felt that no government would be allowed to administer such a policy for very long, due to the cost it would be to the treasury in order for butter to compete with the low cost import of vegetable oils, nor do I feel that this opinion is justified from members of the trade when they are in the fortunate position to retain their trade margin whether the price of butter is 28 cents or 58 cents. The producer and consumer are not in such a fortunate position and, if it were not for the price support assistance given by the Federal Government, farmers would have experienced seasonal declines in butter prices to the extent that they could not stay in the business and, on the other hand, consumers would also have experienced seasonal increases in prices which would have been unjust and unfair to them. Perhaps at times the trade would have been able to have shown much larger profits. I say this from the experience that we have witnessed in the past under similar conditions. The suggestion of deficiency payments would, in my opinion, be the end of the dairy business in Canada, with the possible exception of fluid milk.

I have always felt that what Canada makes, makes Canada. Canada, as with other nations, must have a national policy. This national policy must first recognize the economic interests of Canadian people. The dairy industry in Canada is an economic giant, when we consider the number of people employed in the production and servicing of this industry. The industry's total working force represents something over 2,250,000 people out of a total working force of 5,581,000 in Canada.

For some time now we have had embargoes on dairy products for export to the United States. If butter surpluses become a problem, I would suggest that the use of quotas be employed on the importation of vegetable oils as a part of our national policy. As primary human and animal life has always been dependent on organic fat and protein, our experience so far would indicate that vegetable fats and protein are not comparable in nutrient value with the organic source. Neither can Canada's security afford the loss of the dairy industry, nor can dairy farmers in Canada compete with other low cost labor countries where coconuts are knocked off the tree by cheap labor, compared to a high cost economy in Canada for the dairy industry.

Farmers held the balance of power at Ottawa, and 60 million a year more produced. Is there any wonder that there is a surplus.

During the drought period 1930-38, the average yearly production of wheat was 298 million, so if the hoped for dry years came again the present average export of 270 million a year won't help out with the surplus, in spite of the overflowing optimism of Messrs. Howe and Gardiner. All this is not bungling on the part of the Ottawa Government, but policy designed for the benefit of Industry at the expense of the farmer. It is Colonialism.

Right now, this year, Industry has experienced the biggest boom in the history of Canada, but the farmer is compelled by the tariff barrier to the status of a second rate citizen. There could be a 10 year depression facing the farmers, behind the tariff curtain. What we have had before we could have again, 19 cents No. 1 Northern wheat, \$4 for a market hog and 10c barley.

F.U.A. members, are we going to stand for this? Don't let politics divide you, as it does the membership now. It might be said—let your politics be just the tariff. But no, it is hopeless, let us make it so that we can manage our own affairs and cease being exploited by Eastern Canada. Let us have a free and independent Western Canada. Its got to come some time.

The above figures were taken from the Searle publication of 1954.

W. Horner.

NO SHOOTING

The distraught woman rushed into a drug store, clutching her infant son in her arms.

"My baby swallowed three .22 shells," she moaned, "what am I to do?"

Calmly handing her a bottle of castor oil, the druggist advised, "Give the contents of this bottle, but don't point him at anyone."

BUSY CHICK

A young man leaving a psychiatrist's office was most enthusiastic about the help he had been given. Perhaps, he suggested, the medical man could help his sister also.

"And what seems to be her trouble?" he was asked.

"She thinks she's a chicken and nothing we can say will change her mind."

"Oh, my goodness", ejaculated the psychiatrist, "you had better bring her in at once!"

"Well, we'd like to, but mom says we need the eggs so badly."

50-cent Piece Saves the Day

Farmers have long been noted for their ingenuity in keeping machinery running by adopting makeshift methods for temporary service. It seems others may well fit into that category also, judging from report of a recent incident.

The Canadian National Railways' crack passenger train, the Super Continental, was speeded on its way into Edmonton the night of December 22 through the action of an alert train crew, after mechanical failure forced a halt of almost an hour at Bruce, Alta. (about 75 miles southeast of Edmonton)

The capacity load of Christmas vacationists on board had been harassed by a number of delays brought on by the abnormally cold, stormy weather prevailing from almost one end of the country to the other. Appreciating their anxiety, the operating crew went out into the bitter cold, and after locating the trouble, a resourceful trainman remedied the failure with the aid of a 50-cent piece borrowed from the station agent, G. E. Morrison. The emergency servicing got the train underway shortly, thus saving a wait of possibly several hours for proper repairs.

Oh yes, Mr. Morrisson stipulated in lending the coin that it had to be returned to him . . . as a souvenir of the occasion!

Compensation Protest Lodged With Minister

Strong protest against inadequate compensation was voiced when a six-man delegation representing various rural organizations last December met Hon. Gordon Taylor, provincial highways minister.

Farmers in the Forestburg-Vermilion area were clamoring for a better deal, delegation spokesmen declared. Proposed construction by a utility company of an H-type, high voltage power line between Forestburg and Vermilion would cut diagonally across almost every quarter section along the route, it was claimed. The present system of compensation, they feel, falls far short of meeting hazards and losses attendant to construction and maintenance of such a line with a 50-foot right-of-way.

Annual compensation for life hazard, loss of time (for both machinery and labor) and loss of production were among the requests made.

Mr. Taylor received the petition of protest signed by farmers in the area concerned, and after lengthy discussion with the delegation, promised to look further into the matter.

HINTS FOR BETTER PUBLICITY

Members and officials are generally agreed that wider publicity for the Farmers' Union of Alberta is most desirable. To that end, presumably, a publicity director was hired. While he is expected to "sell" the union and its activities to other groups and to the public in general; much of the work to be done can only be accomplished through the aid of members themselves. This is particularly true with regard to spreading news of activities in locals. Time would not allow for such accounts to be sent to central office for preparation and return to local news outlets.

Newspaper and radio news outlets today more than ever before, are looking for news of events occurring in their districts. Reports of union meetings and union-sponsored community projects of either a social or service nature can provide some of this wanted flavor if properly presented. Promptness and method are the two main considerations, determining whether your items are used or find their way to the waste basket.

Suggestions for Preparing Reports:

1. Promptness — As a common rule, the earlier events are reported, the better. Accounts of happenings submitted a day or at the most several days, after date of event are news; submitted two or three weeks after date they have lost practically all their news value and hold interest for only the people directly concerned. Therefore, it is best to get your news written up no more than a day or two after the event takes place and send it off immediately.

2. Tell a Story — The first paragraph should tell Who, What, When and Where. Thereafter, mention should be made of the main topics of discussion and decisions arising therefrom.

3. Avoid Advertising — The average reader or listener is not interested in an outline of broad union policy nor in the writer's opinions.

4. Forget there are such words as "we" and "our". These are reserved for editorial and column use.

5. Use Names — Give names of persons appointed to carry out decisions of the meeting, whether in union affairs or social activities.

6. Be Concise — Omit reading and adoption of minutes, singing of the national anthem, movers and seconders of motion . . . these are standard procedures at any meeting.

NO ROOM

The rider of a bronc at the rodeo was having a tough time of it hanging onto the bucking steed. The animal, while tossing about wildly, caught his foot in a stirrup. The rider was heard to mutter, "All right, if you're getting on, I'm getting off."

For Increased Income in '56

CO-OP INDIAN BRAND FERTILIZER

Ask for the new CO-OP Fertilizer and Soils Pamphlet. It's informative and helpful.

—GET IT FROM YOUR LOCAL CO-OP

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!—The newly introduced CO-OP Indian Brand Fertilizers are the finest, most productive chemical aid to profitable farming available anywhere. Specifically tailored to Canadian needs, they are your assurance of better and bigger crops in '56.

See your local CO-OP

STORE MANAGER FOR PRICES AND PARTICULARS

Monthly Letter from

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

Dear Friends:

We put together some figures for the December issue of the "Organized Farmer" but for some reason we missed publication. However, figures are not overly interesting and perhaps you didn't miss too much.

One of the things we did try to tell you was that when it comes to producing agricultural products throughout the prairie provinces, and especially as it affects us in Alberta, we always raise more than can be used here. It even goes farther than just an over-production for the local market, it often means that we also frequently have too much for the Canadian market. We're raising livestock in what is usually termed a 'Surplus' area. Of course we would not have gotten into livestock to the extent that we have if there were no 'Deficiency' areas in our own country to take up the slack. In Western Canada, for instance, British Columbia just can't start to produce enough meat to supply its own population and depends mainly on Alberta for most of its hog and pork requirements and for the large proportion of beef and cattle. Ontario and Quebec, while right up in the livestock production picture, also seldom produce as much as they can use. In rough figures, the East, with about 60% of the Canadian human population has about 40% of the Canadian livestock population while Western Canada has about 40% of the human and 60% of the livestock.

Most of you will agree with us when we say that the market that is closest to you is your best market. If you can sell your eggs or a few head of cattle, calves or hogs in your own immediate locality you can usually do better than if you need to go further afield. But it doesn't take long, nor many eggs, cattle, calves and hogs to plug those local holes and then the consumers in the urban centres start to take care of your output. When they've taken about all that they can absorb, you need to go East or West and if there's still some left over then the export market needs to take a share. Basically, the farther that product needs to go, the lower the average price will be unless the 'Deficiency' areas are in a very short position and need to pay a premium to you for a share of the total Canadian supply.

Where livestock and meat is concerned there is then from Alberta always a movement and it's only natural that this is in the direction of best financial return. There's a constant evening and leveling of prices throughout North America and the net return to the producer of livestock

is favorable or otherwise in almost direct proportion to total available supplies and the ability of the people in the livestock and meat trade to move those supplies into most remunerative channels.

There's an old saying "No man can well serve two masters."

We believe this is entirely true when the disposition of livestock is closely scrutinized. Do you believe that the buyers of livestock for processing into meat and meat products are mainly interested in good prices for the producer? Or is there a chance that they might want to obtain an edge on their competitors through buying as cheaply as possible in order that they can then offer the product more cheaply to the wholesale and retail trade? And fundamentally, are their operations not logically first in their own interests?

There must be a starting point somewhere for the establishment of livestock prices. The starting point is not the retail meat counter, though retail sales do have a bearing on livestock that is to come. Fundamentally your prices for livestock are established through competitive sales on Public Terminal markets and other buying, such as direct by drovers, shippers and processors actually has a depressing effect on your central markets simply because every head that is bought away from competition naturally reduces that competition.

It may be slightly more expensive, often it costs no more and in certain areas it is cheaper, to market livestock through Co-operative Livestock Shipping Associations that are affiliated with the Alberta Livestock Co-operative or to consign to your Public markets. However the entire producing industry benefits when maximum buying competition can be brought to bear against maximum available livestock and not just against a portion of it. And one cardinal principle should be firmly kept in mind. Your Co-operative Livestock Shipping Associations and your Public Market Sales Agencies are specialists in the handling of livestock for their patrons. And livestock is their exclusive business.

Sincerely yours

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Geo. Winkelaar,
General Manager.

F.U.A. President's Address to A.F.A.

ADDRESS OF MR. ARNOLD PLATT, PRESIDENT, FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA TO ALBERTA FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL MEETING, CALGARY, JAN. 12/56

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"May I bring greetings and best wishes from all the members of the Farmers' Union, their Directors, Executive and myself. Thank you on behalf of all of us for inviting me.

"Your president, in asking me to come before you, stated that as I was comparatively unknown you would be interested in my philosophy of life, and my views on agricultural matters. He most generously offered all the time I would need. I was tempted to take him at his word, but I have put Satan behind me. I will have a few remarks about how I try to go about my work, some comments on the roles of the component members of the Federation and, finally, a few observations on how I think we could be more effective.

Scientific Approach

"I have had some training in science, and the approach to any scientific problem is to first obtain all the information possible; secondly, to get the best advice possible; and thirdly, to decide on a course of action. That is the method I try to use in dealing with farm problems. However, there are difficulties. Time does not always allow for accumulating information or for discussing these ideas with others and, as a result, a course of action must sometimes be charted without proper background. Mistakes in judgment can be made at any time, but are more likely to be made when background is lacking. For this reason I always try to obtain information and am always willing to listen to advice, but in the final analysis must take the responsibility for my own actions, and this I am prepared to do.

"As an elected official of the Farmers' Union, it is my duty to carry out, to the best of my ability, the wishes of that organization as expressed by convention, board of directors or executive, and that I intend to do. It is equally my responsibility to give leadership to our membership in these matters by doing everything I can to see that they are properly informed on the issues before us.

"The greatest contribution a man can make to society is having an idea. From the mind of man have come the concepts of an organized

society, of law and order, of systems of government, all aimed at the ultimate ideal of freedom of the individual and the nation from economic want and fear of aggression. I think you will all admit we are desperately short of ideas today. I think you will also admit, at least after a moment's reflection, that the best place to obtain such ideas is among farm people. Here is a proud, freedom loving people with a deep compassion for their fellow men, whose daily work is done in an atmosphere conducive to thought and meditation. Farming is more than raising wheat, cattle and hogs. It is also raising scientists, statesmen and humanitarians. Farm organization is more than floor prices and freight rates — it is a great forum of people uniquely endowed to give more than their share to humanity.

Broad Thinking

"Now, if we are going to think, each of us will think differently. Our thoughts are a product of our inheritance, our environment and the information that we have. It is easy to realize that a man on a poor farm, beset with financial worries and perhaps with little formal education, will bring forward ideas which, to a financially secure, well educated neighbor may seem foolish and impractical. Very likely they are, for, particularly in the complex world of today, it is difficult to come forward with courses of action that are practical and worth while.

"But we must be careful. As an illustration, I want to briefly tell you the story of Mr. McFadden, a personal acquaintance, who died recently in Texas. He was a poor farm boy born on a farm in North Dakota. He began attending the State College but was forced to withdraw because the crop on the home farm was persistently wiped out by rust. He asked for a job to breed a new wheat resistant to rust by crossing Emmer and bread wheat. Everyone knew this could not be done, so he was not given the job and went back to his farm. There however, he succeeded in crossing Emmer and wheat, and produced varieties that became the basis of rust resistant wheat. You see 'what everybody knew' was wrong!

"So, when ideas are brought forward, all who sit in judgment on them should remember the story of Mr. McFadden.

"Since we all think differently, the job of any organization is to weld the thinking of its members into an overall program so

that action can be taken. In our concept of organization we say that each member has an equal voice and that the majority rules. This is a practical sort of scheme which allows us to get along and take group action on our problems. There are two things we should keep in mind at all times. Firstly, you do not achieve unity by majority rule, but only by education and persuasion. You do not necessarily convince a man he is wrong by out-voting him. Secondly, we as individuals must realize that, if our organization is to succeed and make progress, we must accept the principle of majority rule, at least on most issues. We farm people are too prone to feel that if you won't do it my way then I'm getting out. Sound and lasting organizations will not be built on that basis.

"We all want unity on the farm front. How many times have you heard farmers and farm leaders say, 'If we could just get together we could get what we want'. I believe that, and I am going to do what I can to advance the idea.

Not The Answer

"It has been suggested that unity could be achieved in Alberta by setting up one farm organization with one president and one board of directors. I do not think that this is sound.

"In the first place it would be unity by majority only, and that is not real unity. We must be realistic. Under such a scheme it would only be a matter of time until one group or another broke away and we would be much worse off than before.

"Secondly, such a scheme ignores the unique roles that our organizations—the Farmers' Union, the Co-ops, and the commodity groups — can and do play in the farm movement. May I very briefly note some of these.

"First, may I mention the Farmers' Union, of which I am so very proud to be the president. This is an organization to which any farmer can belong regardless of the type of farming he does, his race, creed or political belief. It reflects the thinking of the man on the land. It provides a forum for all ideas — a chance to weed out those that are bad and advance those that are good. Here is the place where our young men and women can get training in public life. Here is the place where new concepts of economic and political philosophy can arise. Here is an organization with 50 years of history — an organization that has made great contributions, but I need not elaborate—many of you before me have taken the lion's share in making it what it is.

"We all understand the role of the co-operatives. They have made great contributions to our economic welfare and, perhaps more im-

portant, have instilled in us the true co-operative spirit. They have served as a training ground for our men and women in the business world and they, in turn, have given us the benefits of their knowledge in our own farm organizational work.

"I know you will agree that the commodity groups are also filling a very necessary role. They are essential in handling the business of their members and I do not see how any other organization could take over their function.

"So we have all these groups together in the Alberta Federation of Agriculture to emphasize, I hope, those things we can all agree on and minimize those things on which, as yet, we do not all think alike.

"I would be remiss if I did not offer some comments on how we might get closer together, to work together in an even more friendly atmosphere and in general, learn to live with our differences.

Tolerance Asked

"I would ask you other members of the Federation, in the interests of agriculture and of unity, to be tolerant of us in the Farmers' Union, to keep your minds open and to encourage us to think boldly and imaginatively about the problems that face us. I would ask you to go along with us whenever you can — stretch a point if possible — because we do represent a large cross-section of farm opinion. If you can't agree with us on some point, ignore it if you can. If you feel it is too important to ignore let us disagree privately first, and if it must be public let it be with as much good grace and understanding as possible.

"I hope we in the Farmers' Union can fulfil our part of such an agreement. I promise you I will do my best.

"To you in the commodity groups—support us on the local level. Share with our locals the fine leaders you have, and ask us to help you with your provincial and national problems. We are interested.

"And to the co-operatives — let us sit down together and see if we can't work out programs that would help us both. Surely you could use our locals and facilities for your educational work, and I assure you we could use your money.

"Finally, let us all discourage sectionalism, mistrust and ill feeling between farmer and farmer. There are those who, for selfish ends, would set north against south, little farm against big farm, grain against livestock, and so on. There is no room in any farm organization for such as these, for what does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his neighbor."

Farm Women's Union of Alberta

F.W.U.A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Delegation to Provincial Government

We started 1956 by taking our F.U.A. resolutions in the form of a brief to Premier Manning and the Cabinet Ministers. A full report on this will be given to the Board of Directors as well as being sent out to the locals. At this time your F.W.U.A. Executive are preparing the brief which we hope to present early in February.

Mass Meetings

Due to cold weather and impassable roads many meetings have been called off or postponed. It is very fortunate, for it not only prevents speakers getting there to give information, but at the same time deprives our members of the contacts that Head Office has planned. Trying to arrange new dates creates a lot of work for all concerned but we hope that very soon the weather will improve and meetings will go ahead as scheduled.

Do It Now Campaign

As a member of the Committee on Winter Unemployment it is heartening to find that our work has really brought a good response from the employers in Calgary and district. Unemployment figures usually rise in winter when outdoor work closes down, and since we are having so much below zero weather, it was expected that the situation would be hard to deal with. Figures show that householders and employers are co-operating in getting inside work done now, which they usually put off until spring. When better weather comes the construction projects will resume work, but in the meantime our campaign has helped to keep people employed. A little co-operation can do much to help many.

Conventions

December was a busy month with conventions which concern agriculture, but January runs just as close. The meeting of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council, the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, the Western Agricultural Conference and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture are all scheduled this month. Your F.U.A. representatives will attend all of these to present the views of our members. Following these meetings briefs will be presented to the Government.

School Study Changes Proposed

Some years ago, a General Curriculum Committee was set up in this province under the department of education to review the work of smaller curriculum committees scattered over the country and to act on its own initiative in advising the minister in charge.

One of the committee members, Mrs. Sidney Drysdale of Clairmont, F.W.U.A. director for District No. 1 and A.F.A. representative to the curriculum committee reported on the work of the committee at the recent A.F.A. Convention. The following are excerpts from Mrs. Drysdale's report to the convention:

Conflicting Views

"The committee has devoted considerable thought to the matter of grade 12 examinations. On the one hand, one viewpoint is that in such subjects as English and Social Studies, examinations influence the teaching of these subjects so that memorization of facts is stressed, while there may be little correlation between knowledge and the ability to use it . . . The other viewpoint is that provincial examinations provide an experience needed by young people and establish a standard of achievement.

"Dr. Swift (of the University of Alberta) reported that the university is changing its matriculation requirements in 1956 to include the grade 12 course in trigonometry and analytical geometry for students entering the engineering faculty or physical science and honors mathematics program leading to a B.Sc. degree.

" . . . I would strongly advise any student experiencing difficulty in entering other universities to take up the matter with the department of education as they are glad to assist in any way possible.

Complementary Course

" . . . Shortening of the French program from three to two years, although acceptable to the University of Alberta, has proven unacceptable to some other universities. To meet the needs of students planning to attend such institutions, the department is now offering a grade 12 course in French reading and literature, along with or following the regular grade 12 French course . . .

" . . . With the restoration of these courses,

a number of members of the General Curriculum Committee feel that students in the small high schools will be forced into the course in order to take care of the few students who will be going on to university . . . After some discussion, the committee passed a resolution drawn to the attention of the Articulation Committee the problems created by multiple entrance requirements beyond the six subjects and that they continue to study the problems so created.

Felt Backward Step

" . . . Matriculation students specializing in such subjects as commerce, industrial arts or home economics will no longer be able to present (in lieu of regular matriculation subjects) certain high school courses in commerce, industrial arts or home economics. The university has deleted these courses for matriculation credit and some of us felt this was a backward step, especially in view of the extreme shortage of teachers in these subjects. The committee passed a resolution advising the minister that we favor as much flexibility as possible in the matriculation requirements and especially would like to see Note No. 2 (referred to above) retained.

" . . . Many will be glad to know that the course in High School English has been greatly strengthened. The time devoted to English has been increased in grades 10 and 11 from five to eight periods a week. The new text book and course in English 30 have been well received."

Seeking Broad Inquiry

Speaking on the one-day conference on teacher recruitment and retention, held at the behest of the Alberta Federation of Home and School Associations, Mrs. Drysdale reported much profitable discussion. The gathering of over 100 representatives listened to addresses by prominent educationalists and then divided into 10 groups for a buzz session to give detailed attention to the issues raised. The meeting later appointed a continuing committee to look into the desirability of requesting a royal commission which would study many of the problems brought up at the conference, including the whole financial set-up of our educational system.

No suggestion was made at the conference to lower standards in the teaching profession, said Mrs. Drysdale. In fact, one of the major suggestions was to raise standards of teacher selection, education and certification. Other suggestions were for better working and living conditions, especially in the rural areas; improved salaries; bonuses on a merit plan; more and faster promotions with comparable salary increases.

F.W.U.A Hi-Lights

Reports of the annual convention were given, at a joint meeting of the Arrowwood FWUA No. 1201 and the FUA., by eleven who had attended the convention of which eight were official delegates. The reports were varied and interesting.

* * * *

Jenny Lind (Scandia) FWUA No. 1305 heard a very interesting report on the annual convention, given by the Alt. Director. This local is working on organizing and raising funds to buy musical instruments to start a band of young and old citizens. Progress has been favourable and generous donations have been made by various businesses and further support is forthcoming.

* * * *

Although it was very cold there was a fairly good turn-out at the December meeting of Black Diamond FWUA No. 1214. Christmas gifts were exchanged. A pot luck supper is being planned for February. New year greetings go to one and all.

* * * *

Clover Bar FWUA No. 602 heard very interesting reports of the annual convention, and also reports on the Jubilee social evening sponsored by this local.

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Shady Nook (Red Deer) FWUA No. 1014 held a very interesting December meeting, at which Mrs. Braithwaite gave a report on the annual convention.

* * * *

A Christmas party was a feature of the December meeting of Baintree FWUA No. 1001. After a bit of entertainment and carol singing an exchange of gifts took place.

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The Bulletin on Social Welfare has been found very interesting by the members of Viking South FWUA No. 807. At the Bingo held November 12 two satin covered wool-filled comforters were given as free prizes. A nice donation was given to the ladies by Alice Hill FUA towards expense of sending a delegate.

* * * *

At the last meeting of Twin Butte FWUA No. 1209 "roll call" was answered by "What I could do to be a better member this year." The Farmers Petition was discussed and efforts are to be made to have it signed by as many as possible. A bazaar and dance is to be held during the spring.

It is reported by Delia FWUA No. 1103 that the rural Jubilee Grant of \$148.23 would be applied toward the Community Hall building fund. The delegate's report was heard and also a report on the FWUA Boxing Day Dance.

* * * *

Okotoks FWUA No. 1208 held a fine Christmas party, with turkey and all the trimmings, and gifts were exchanged by all. A meeting followed the party at which the usual business was taken care of.

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Bonanza FWUA No. 101 have undertaken further purchases for the hall kitchen and have donated towards the new extension and stage for the hall.

* * * *

It is planned by Crown FWUA No. 919 to have guest speakers at at least four regular meetings during the year. The members are looking forward to an active year.

* * * *

Chinook Valley FWUA No. 108 answered the roll call with the donation of a towel by each member, these towels to go to the Home for Retarded Children at Grande Prairie. This local reports very good sales of cook books. They would be glad to exchange ideas for "roll call."

* * * *

Chinook FWUA No. 1213 at their last meeting heard the report of the recent annual convention, given by two members who attended, and it was well given. It is planned to have a film on cancer to be shown in the near future. All the members gave pennies for friendship.

* * * *

A very successful Bingo and Dance was held by the Willow Springs FWUA No. 612 (Bon Accord). The District Home Economist, Mrs. Grace Melnyk, spoke on Handicraft work, giving interesting and valuable information.

* * * *

Edwell FWUA No. 1019 donated money to buy decorations for the school for Christmas and presents and treats were arranged for the children. At the next meeting the speaker will be a neighbor recently returned from England. In February it is hoped to have as speaker the welfare worker.

* * * *

At the January 4th meeting of Heath FWUA No. 703 the Farmers Petition was discussed and signed. A splendid report on the annual convention was given by the local delegate.

Barrhead FWUA No. 302 at the annual meeting re-instated all officers. It has been decided to have twice monthly whist drives at Leighton School, grand prize for highest aggregate score to be presented at end of series.

* * * *

Three Hills FWUA No. 1018 held their last meeting in the form of a Christmas party, with music, singing and readings, ending in prayer. The members are very happy that their president, Mrs. Jasman is well again.

* * * *

The last meeting of West Wind FWUA No. 1217, after the official business was cared for, ended up as a Christmas party. Gifts were given to two ladies who had perfect attendance for for the past year. Gifts were exchanged by the members, and five new members came into the Union.

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The members of Irvine FWUA No. 1309 answered the roll call with an exchange of gifts. An interesting bulletin on Social Welfare was read and a tentative date set for a Membership Drive Social, on January 6, 1956.

* * * *

A very good report of the Annual Convention was given to Swalwell FWUA No. 1017 by the delegate and it was suggested by her that Mrs. Armstrong and her assistants should be congratulated on their handling of the convention (FWUA).

* * *

Roll call at the last meeting of Hope Valley (Edgerton) FWUA No. 718 was answered by "What I could do to be a better member this year". The local delegate to the annual convention gave a very interesting report of the convention.

* * *

After two tries at holding a meeting and being prevented by storms the Marwayne FWUA Local No. 716 did meet on January 4th. This local keeps very busy getting together food, clothing, etc. for distribution to the needy. Part of the convention report was given and an exchange of gifts took place.

HER FAULT!

An Indian family driving around the big city on a shopping tour became involved in a collision at a busy intersection. The police officer appearing promptly on the scene wanted to know what had caused the mishap.

Jerking his head toward the rear, the driver tersely declared, "Damn wife in back seat fall asleep!"

GREEN CROSS BIG 4 SEED GRAIN DRESSINGS

It is time to begin thinking about treatments. Losses to farmers from wireworm damage and diseases such as smut, amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in Western Canada. This loss is not necessary. Proper seed treatment can prevent it.

U.F.A. Co-op handles the nationally known Green Cross products. Green Cross Big 4 Seed Grain Dressings provide effective control for Canadian grain growers. Here is what they are:

BUNT-NO-MORE —

a non-mercurial product for the control of Stinking Smut or Bunt of **Wheat** only. It can be used **immediately** before planting or **months** before, whichever you prefer. It is used at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce per bushel of wheat.

50% LINDANE —

for the control of wireworm in wheat, coarse grains and sugar beets. Two ounces treat enough seed for one acre. Seed should be treated one or two weeks before planting.

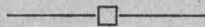
MERLANE — (dual treatment)

for the treatment of wireworms and seed-borne diseases in wheat, coarse grains, corn and beans. $2\frac{1}{2}$ ounces treat enough seed to sow one acre of wheat or coarse grains. Should be applied as close to seeding time as possible.

SAN —

for the control of seed-borne diseases of wheat, coarse grains and flax. Is a mercurial seed disinfectant. Applied $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce per bushel on wheat, oats, barley and rye. $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces for flax.

For detailed information write U.F.A. Co-op Plan now to buy your seed treatments from U.F.A. Co-op and save money.



IT PAYS

TO BUY FARM SUPPLIES THROUGH

U. F. A. Co-op Farm Supply Dept.

10126 - 98th Street, Edmonton.

125 - 11th Avenue E., Calgary.

MEMBERSHIP RECORD — DECEMBER 1955

DISTRICT	Dec. Men	To Date Men	Dec. Women	To Date Women	Dec. Assoc.	To Date Assoc.	Dec. Jr.	To Date Jrs.	To Date Total
DISTRICT 1	732	1065	172	261	---	---	107	168	1494
DISTRICT 2	331	944	85	279	---	1	64	199	1423
DISTRICT 3	286	1182	87	355	---	1	44	204	1742
DISTRICT 4	907	1470	332	464	1	1	252	387	2322
DISTRICT 5	384	725	109	256	---	---	80	183	1164
DISTRICT 6	1259	2065	516	856	1	2	311	488	3411
DISTRICT 7	708	1790	206	580	---	---	107	348	2718
DISTRICT 8	868	1626	239	440	---	---	112	245	2311
DISTRICT 9	983	1680	284	449	3	3	132	234	2366
DISTRICT 10	695	1160	155	291	10	10	71	105	1568
DISTRICT 11	333	676	125	269	1	2	59	103	1050
DISTRICT 12	1051	1658	405	665	6	7	171	278	2608
DISTRICT 13	209	383	103	171	---	3	32	61	618
DISTRICT 14	653	981	229	319	---	1	135	173	1474
TOTAL	9399	17405	3047	5655	22	31	1677	3176	26269

Methods for Support Payments

The techniques which have been used to support farm prices in Canada have varied. Most commonly, as with butter, the Prices Support Board is authorized to purchase stocks if the price of the product drops to the support level and there are no other buyers. In some cases the Board is empowered only to purchase a certain amount or up to a maximum.

The policy on shell eggs has been to set a uniform price for eggs "into storage" at central storage points across Canada. The Board can offer to purchase the eggs stored under the program at any time. Refusal to deliver means giving up the right to receive the support price.

The question of the best method of farm price supports is raised by many people, and wider use of deficiency payments has been suggested. This allows prices to find their own level while the government pays to the producer any difference between the market price and the guaranteed price.

The public as consumers would pay food prices established by an unsupported market and there would be no surpluses in government hands. However, higher administrative costs and heavier costs to the Treasury under this system are disadvantages, particularly since consumers would perhaps fail to realize that the increased tax cost would be offset to a large extent by lower retail prices.

—Farm Forum Guide

New Grain Varieties Recommended.
Thatcher Still Top Yielder

Two changes were recommended recently in hard red spring wheat by the Alberta Varietal Zonation Committee. Lake has been recommended for the Coronation-Provost areas in east-central Alberta. Compared with Thatcher, Lake is later in maturity, has longer straw of equal strength and larger kernels with less tendency to bleach. Selkirk is recommended for the irrigated areas only. It matures at about the same time as Thatcher and is resistant to Race 15B of stem rust and moderately resistant to leaf rust. Thatcher still remains the highest in yield throughout the province.

Among the barleys Gateway is now recommended in 7 of the 10 sub areas of zones 2, 3 and 4. It is a smooth awned feed barley susceptible to loose smut. It is similar to Olli in time of maturity but higher in yield. Husky and Wolfe are also recommended. Husky is a late smooth awned feed barley, susceptible to loose and covered smut. Wolfe is a very strong strawed smooth awned feed barley 4 to 5 days later than Olli. It is superior to Olli in yield but is susceptible to diseases.

Changes in oat recommendations involve introductions of two new varieties, Rodney and Abegweit. Rodney is recommended for the central part of the province and Abegweit for the Peace River District.

The new issue of the circular "Varieties of Grain for Alberta" is available now from District Agriculturists, Field Crops Branch or Extension Branch, Alberta Department of Agriculture, Edmonton.

A.F.A. Convention Gives General Support To Union Proposals

To the mind of one delegate, an old-timer in the farm organization and veteran of innumerable conventions, this year's annual meet of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, held at Calgary, January 11-13, showed a heightened spirit of debate and a keener than usual examination of implications contained in resolutions. While there were distinct divisions on some questions, an honest difference of opinion prevailed and no heated controversy arose.

A number of resolutions submitted by the Farmers' Union of Alberta were covered in resolutions coming either from the board or other member organizations. These embodied substantially the same thought, and in some cases, even broader detail.

Resolutions Adopted.

Among the F.U.A. resolutions adopted by the convention were those dealing with study of an acreage reduction bonus incentive; amendment to the provincial marketing act to require a two-thirds majority of those voting, rather than the present 51 per cent of eligibles; investigation by the provincial government of the meat price spreads between producer and consumer; reduction of farm truck license fees; establishment of two pioneer historical museums; vesting power with municipal bodies to levy taxes for support of weather modification projects; setting up of a revolving fund for rural telephone construction, national health insurance; opposition to increased freight rates and revision of provincial hunting regulations.

Two farm union resolutions met with considerable objection. One asked that provincial marketing board legislation be broadened to include cattle and sheep producers, while the other requested amendment to the Municipal Act to allow for adjustment of tax assessment on farm lands which have been partially flooded and out of production for two or more successive years. Both were tabled after some discussion.

A close look was given to the union's farm emergency policy. Points No. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 12 were not discussed, having been covered in previous resolutions and adopted in principle of not in detail. Points No. 8, 9 and 10 were turned down by the convention. These asked for conditional tax penalty postponement; protection from seizure and eviction; and wider international trade.

Proposals Rejected

The first of these, while good in principle, would

leave the door open for abuse to the extent the move would defeat its original purpose, delegates argued. With regard to protection from seizure and eviction, it was pointed out that under existing legislation the honest farmer is amply protected. On the question of increased trade with all countries, delegates were of the opinion that the United States' recent experiments in pursuing the policy advocated failed to achieve the desired goal and brought forth unfavorable views from other nations whose own policies were affected.

A resolution submitted by the Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association asked the A.F.A. to support the Canadian Beef Council (Western Section) proposal for a deduction of five cents per head on each animal marketed. Proceeds would be used to finance a program of public relations and product promotion designed to raise beef consumption in Canada. An amendment to endorse only the principle of the request was defeated by a slight majority and the whole matter was referred to the A.F.A. board of directors for further consideration.

The liaison committee between the F.U.A. and the A.F.A. reported that, in their opinion, the time was not ripe for amalgamation of the two bodies.

Other Highlights

Convention highlights included the presidential address of Roy C. Marler; presentation to Dr. and Mrs. O. S. Longman for their many years of service to Alberta Agriculture; the directors' report read by Mrs. C. T. Armstrong; an address by Fred J. Rossiter, U.S. agricultural attache at Ottawa; reports from the experimental farm committee, car insurance committee, Alberta Farm Radio Forum, advisory committee of the Alberta Freight Bureau, the Alberta Department of Fish and Game and from the province's general curriculum committee. (The latter is reprinted elsewhere in this issue, as is also the text of Mr. Platt's address to the general convention.)

Officers Chosen

At a board meeting following the closing session, Roy C. Marler of Bremner was re-elected for his tenth term of president. George Church, Balzac, and Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, Calgary, were named vice-presidents. Directors elected included A. W. Platt, Lethbridge; S. A. Sanford, Vegreville; Carl Antonson, Pibroch; K. V. Kapler, Strome; L. R. Jensen, Magrath; Gordon Harrold, Lamont; R. H. Dahl, Raymond; Carl Anderson, Brooks; and H. W. Allen of Hualien.

Mr. Platt, Mr. Marler and Mr. Harrold were elected to the board of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Co-op Wholesales Need Pool Resources: Love

You've got to be big if you want to aim at the ultimate of service in the co-operative wholesale field. This was the message of J. R. Love, president of the Alberta Co-operative Wholesale Association, as he addressed the opening session of the association's annual meeting in Edmonton January 11-12.

The logical method for sound growth lies in pooling resources inter-provincially, thus enabling production of some supplies in addition to general distribution, he declared. Amalgamation of western co-operative wholesale associations is vital if they are to compete with the chain-store set-up of private enterprise backed by tremendous facilities.

Higher Savings Lines

The wholesale president appealed to store managers to promote sales in higher savings-margin commodities. Groceries are small-margin stock and have to be carried in stores more as a service than for financial attraction. Great opportunity lies in feed lines, he said. Alberta farmers feed about three times as much millfeed as their Saskatchewan neighbors, yet co-op sales in that line here are far smaller than those in the sister province.

Speaking of possibilities offered by the association's recent petroleum supply contract, Mr. Love suggested that main concentration in the coming season should be in that department of handling. "You'll never make the stage of (refinery) ownership until you have the sales to warrant it", he prophesied.

Financial Statement

The association's annual financial statement, presented by General Manager T. E. (Ted) Mowbrey, showed assets at the end of October totalling \$2,592,610 against liabilities of \$1,808,273 and members equities of \$784,336.

The operating statement for the year showed a gross trading margin of \$935,906, or 13.65 per cent of sales. Operating expenses of \$883,177 and other expenses of \$2,342 left a net saving of \$50,386.

Way Cleared

The second day of the convention saw the way paved for eventual entry of A.C.W.A. into Federated Co-operatives Limited, the Saskatchewan and Manitoba amalgamated co-op wholesale formed last year. It was noted that co-ops in those two provinces showed a nine per cent increase in business in the face of a general business decline.

Considerable reorganization is necessary for Alberta to qualify for entry, it was indicated. Main stumbling block barring the way was a large deficit suffered on A.C.W.A. operations up to 1950. To deal with this, the convention through resolution approved a bylaw which will amend the constitution and make provision for dealing with deficits. Under

the new provision, deficits may be charged against the association's reserve funds; carried forward as a deficit to be made up in future years; assessed against members having credits in their favor for patronage refunds retained by the association; or may be assessed against members under a system combining two or more of the above alternatives.

Following detailed discussion and approval of the bylaw, delegates voted to charge an old deficit of \$232,633 against equities held by member co-operatives on a pro-rata basis.

Officers Chosen

At a board meeting following the closing session J. R. Love of Edmonton was re-elected president; P. H. Goetel of Waskatenau was named vice-president, and Edward Peterson of Wetaskiwin was chosen executive board member. Earlier, the convention had re-elected W. G. McAndrews of Eckville and M. Novakowski of Mundare as directors and named G. H. Johnson of La Glace to succeed Uri Powell of Sexsmith who retired from the board this year.

In line with unanimous voting in the country, the convention passed a resolution reaffirming its support of the amalgamation which it first approved at last year's convention and instructed the board to proceed in that direction as quickly as possible.

Buffet Supper.

Tables literally groaned with food as the management and staff of A.C.W.A. played host to delegates and a large body of visitors at a buffet supper in the wholesale building on January 11. After presentation of films and skits, the gathering was addressed by Breen Melvin of Ottawa, national secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada.

MISTAKE IN PETITION

I wish to call your attention to point No. 3 in the petition that is being circulated. A serious error was made which was my responsibility.

This section now reads:

"That while the present restricted delivery situation exists, provision be made for cash advances against grain stored on the farm. Such advances to be equal to 50% of the initial payment on an 8 bushel quota, and to be issued through the elevator system at not over 3½% interest."

It should read: "cash advances on farm stored grain, after inspection as to quantities, grade, and condition of storage facilities."

You can make the petition read more correctly by striking out the last sentence of point three as it now appears on the petition. This sentence will be removed from all petitions before they are submitted to Ottawa.

A. W. Platt.

Increased Payments by Canadian Wheat Board Urged by J. E. Brownlee, President of United Grain Growers Ltd., in New Year's Radio Broadcast to Farmers.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. BROWNLEE'S ADDRESS:

"The new year finds agriculture grappling with one major problem — how to handle and dispose of great stores of wheat. For nature in her most lavish mood . . . has during the past six years given the western plains five crops of the highest yield since prairie settlement began — with five hundred million bushels more than in any other comparable period.

"Most European countries, operating under the incentive of state subsidies more than \$2.00 per bushel in terms of American funds, are producing such bountiful crops as to greatly reduce the demand from North America. France, for example, a net importer of wheat only eight years ago, exported last year over eighty million bushels, and, by policy of state export subsidies, has cut heavily into American and Canadian markets.

"For various reasons the world seems to have moved into one of those periods when food production has overtaken the demand of world population. That the present stores of wheat give rise to interim problems of finance, storage and sales I freely grant, but I am hopeful that the crisis will not be prolonged and that these interim problems may be met reasonably, if not wholly.

"There are several reasons why I am hopeful. I do not believe that climatic conditions in Western Canada have permanently changed. I rather believe that history will repeat itself, and that Canada and other countries will again experience the years of low average production. A reduction of only a few bushels per acre spread over the enormous wheat acreage of the world can make a tremendous difference in wheat supplies.

"I have abiding confidence that statesmen as well as leaders of farm thought in all countries, importing as well as exporting, will realize the danger of chaotic market conditions which must follow a continuance of extreme incentive programs, and realize also the disastrous results to internal budgets which must follow. So I look forward with hope to the International Wheat Conference, which will resume in Geneva in the latter part of February.

"But beyond all other considerations is the steady, inexorable growth of world population. According to experts that population is now compounding at the rate of 1% per annum. At that rate a population equal to that of Great Britain is added to the world population every two years.

"While I speak with confidence of the future, I am far from ignoring the immediate and urgent problems. I have mentioned the danger of subsidized dumping of wheat by other countries, notably the United States and France. Canada must continue to let the world know how keenly it feels on that subject. Western farmers should protest on every possible occasion against the dangerous features of the present wheat disposal program of the United States. That country must be repeatedly reminded that Canada is its largest customer and that damage done to the economy of Western Canada will very soon reflect itself in damage to the United States through lessened exports to Canada.

"The financial problem of farmers has been alleviated to some extent by the system of guaranteed bank loans against farm stored grain which has recently been put into effect. But the best and quickest way of getting more money into farmers' hands is by means of increased payments from the Canadian Wheat Board on past and current deliveries. The government will be justified in running some measure of risk in authorizing the Wheat Board to pay out more money. Deliveries could also be stepped up by putting into use the empty space that now exists both in country and terminal elevators.

"We must emphasize again and again that agriculture is and must remain Canada's most important industry."



J. E. BROWNLEE
President of U.G.G.

Copies of Mr. Brownlee's address may be obtained by writing the Calgary or Winnipeg offices of

United Grain Growers Ltd.

MARKETING POLICIES

Elected delegates of the Alberta Wheat Pool set the policy for the organization. At their recent annual meeting they committed the Pool to the support of the following points in connection with grain marketing:

1. Continuation of the Canadian Wheat Board as the sole marketing agency for western grain.
2. The inclusion of flax and rye in the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board.
3. The renewal of the International Wheat Agreement.
4. Endorsation of a two-price system for wheat with a domestic price in line with the farmer's cost of production.
5. The establishment of a food bank of not less than 250 million bushels of wheat to be purchased by the federal government from the Canadian Wheat Board and carried at the expense of the government as an emergency reserve.
6. The assuming of carrying charges by the federal government on any additional quantities of grain remaining unsold in the hands of the Wheat Board at the end of each crop year.
7. That the initial payment on wheat be again set at \$1.40 per bushel for the 1956-57 crop.
8. That the final wheat price for the present season be guaranteed by the federal government at not less than the minimum of \$1.55 a bushel under the International Wheat Agreement.
9. That aggressive selling policies be continued in all countries, including those behind the Iron Curtain, "believing that it is in the best interests of the world that trade be carried on freely between all countries."
10. That the prevailing freight tariff on grain under the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement must not be disturbed.
11. That the allocation of boxcars between elevators must be established on the basis of the preference of the grain producer.
12. That the government offer some inducement to transfer cereal acreage to grass, legumes or other soil-building crops.

Delegates believed that advances on farm stored grain were only a temporary emergency measure but that money for this purpose should be made available at a low rate of interest. They did not, however, approve of the Wheat Board entering the loaning business for fear of jeopardizing its usefulness as a merchandising agency.

The patronage of Pool Elevators is support for these policies.

